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Important Dates and Deadlines

October

- 1 TN Team Ag Ed (Nashville)
- 3 MT Ag Sales CDE
- 3 WT Ag Sales CDE & Greenhand Conf.
- 6 ET & WT Land Judging
- 21-24 National FFA Convention
- 23 Tennessee FFA Awards Breakfast – Westin Hotel

November

- 5 MT Parli Pro Open/Clo Sectionals
- 7 UTK Varsity Visit
- 9 State Land Judging CDE
- 12 WT Livestock Judging CDE
- 12 MT Parli Pro Open/Closing Regionals
- 14 State FFA Alumni Council Meeting
- 17-21 NAAE National Convention
- 19 NAAE National Convention - TN Host State Social

From the Owl's Nest

We hope you enjoy this first monthly issue of "Here by the OWL"... Opportunities, Wisdom & Leadership in Agricultural Education. This monthly publication is designed to share valuable information to help you provide rigorous and relevant instruction and advise that "will always be based on true knowledge and ripened with wisdom" to your students. To help accomplish this task, I am asking each teacher to send me one of your best teaching strategies, tips or activities that we can share with each other. We are asking each chapter reporter to submit to us articles that we can use in our Chapter Highlights section. If you have any suggestions for any future topics or suggestions, please send those to me at steven.gass@tn.gov.

Owl's Quote:

"There is a wonderful mythical law of nature that the three things we crave most in life—happiness, freedom, and peace of mind—are always attained by giving them to someone else." by Peyton C. March.

Blast from the Past

Can you identify this 1977 State Winning Parliamentary Procedure Team Advisor? He is in the light colored suit.



Give up? Answer on page 2.

Life's Lesson:

Children Learn What They Live

If a child lives with criticism, He learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility, He learns to fight.

If a child lives with ridicule, He learns to be shy.

If a child lives with shame, He learns to be guilty.

If a child lives with tolerance, He learns to be patient.

If a child lives with encouragement, He learns confidence.

If a child lives with praise, He learns to appreciate.

If a child lives with fairness, He learns justice.

If a child lives with security, He learns to have faith.

If a child lives with approval, He learns to like himself.

If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, He learns to find love in the world.

Unknown

Chapter Spotlights



Portland Chapter
received a
\$1,000.00

PALS Grant from the National FFA to help support their PLOW Program.

Congratulations to the Portland FFA Chapter.

Dr. Cliff Ricketts, Agricultural Education, received MTSU's highest honor, the MTSU Career Achievement Award which is based on teaching, research and public service putting him in a category as one of MTSU's top professors. Dr. Ricketts has 33 years of service at MTSU and six years at Mt. Juliet High School.

Dr. David Frazier is the new teacher educator at Tennessee Technological University. Dr. Frazier comes to us with 15 outstanding years of teaching in Texas. His educational experiences in Texas and at the University of Missouri will be a benefit to all of us. You can contact Dr. Fraizer at dcfrazier@tntech.edu.

New State Champions

The following chapters have been named the state champions at their respective state

career development events. Congratulations to these chapters. I know each of these chapters will represent Tennessee FFA very well at the National FFA Convention in October.

- State Horse CDE - **Page FFA Chapter**
- State Dairy CDE - **Jefferson County FFA Chapter**
- State Livestock CDE - **Daniel Boone FFA Chapter**
- State Dairy Handlers CDE - **Caroline Conley of the Daniel Boone FFA Chapter**



Best Practices Snap Shots

Instruction

- Downloaded OSHA standards for shop safety, extracted those that applied to the situation, created a check sheet, had students and advisory council evaluate the facilities according to the check sheet.
- Collect how-to sheets from national NAAE Ideas Unlimited submissions to use in your program.

Blast from the Past Answer: Mr. Donald Swanay – West Greene FFA Advisor.

Quality Career and Technical Education Programs

Tennessee has defined **Quality Career and Technical Education Programs** using quality program indicators for all programs with an agreement through Carl Perkins funding. These indicators for any Career and Technical Education program are as follows:

- A. Programs of such size that offer a sequence of three or more earned credits;
- B. Programs of such scope that are aligned with a state approved program of study within career clusters;
- C. Programs having a certified and appropriately endorsed teacher (Note: A teacher who teaches a CTE course that substitutes for a core academic course must be highly qualified);
- D. Programs teaching the state approved curriculum standards;
- E. Programs having a state approved articulation agreement for a program of study or an approved articulation agreement approved by the lead administrators of secondary and post-secondary institutions, where available;
- F. Programs being supported by current labor market data to support high skill, high wage or high demand jobs;
- G. Programs that teach all aspects of an industry;
- H. Programs having an active advisory panel;
- I. Programs having a career and technical student organization as an integral part of the instructional program; and
- J. Programs promoting CTE and academic curriculum integration with academic teachers.

A **Quality Twelve-Month Agricultural Education Program** is one that meets the Quality Career and Technical Education Program indicators and equally maximizes the following three critical components of the educational instructional procedure that shall take place during the regular school time (180 days) and during the extended program time.



1. **Classroom Instruction - contextual academic and technical**

This component is accomplished through effective classroom and laboratory instruction which prepares qualified employees for the food, fiber and natural resources industry.

2. **SAE - field experience of concepts and principles learned in the classroom**

This component is accomplished by teaching students practical skills by providing hands-on, real-world experiences which will help them be successful in today's work world.

3. **FFA – co-curricular student organization**

This component is accomplished by encouraging and assisting students to participate in FFA. FFA builds leadership skills for life, reinforces instruction, recognizes excellence, and gives students opportunities to make a positive difference in their schools and communities.

CTE Conference and TAAE Highlights

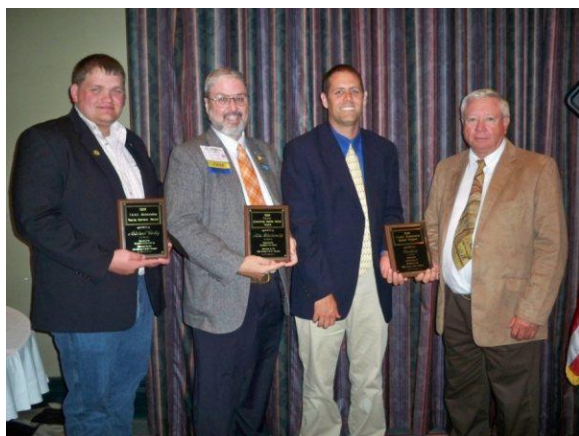
Summer Conference was a great success. TAAE had 278 agricultural education teachers to attend the conference. Thanks to all of the teachers that made presentations. This was one of the highlights of this year's conference. Thanks to Southern-Heritage Farms for providing an outstanding meal and to Craig Winquest for providing the entertainment for the Tuesday evening cook-out. Congratulations to the following TAAE members for their accomplishments:

TAAE Awards



2009-2010 TAAE Officers: (Left to Right)

Middle TN Vice President Terry Shartzer – Portland,
Secretary Bill Newsom – Munford, **West TN Vice President** Brett Piatt – Crockett County, **President** Ann Johnson – Munford,
Treasurer Jerry Wood – Lexington, **East TN Vice President** Dale Tucker – North Greene



Outstanding Young Member: Michael Coley – Mt. Juliet, **Teacher Mentor:** Mike Blankenship – North Knox, **Outstanding Program:** Woodbury - Advisors Courtney Nichols, Bob Melton (Not Pictured: Bill Bowman)



Outstanding Teacher: Richard Ledford – Bradley Central

2009 NAAE Convention Host State Social



A Tennessee Two-Steppin' Good Time!
Hosted by the Tennessee Association of Agricultural Educators

When: Thursday, November 19, 2009

Where: Nashville Palace Honky Tonk
(across from Gaylord Opryland Resort)

Time: 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Activities: Meal, live band & dancing

Cost: \$30/person - advance ticket purchase is required. Form more information go to www.naae.org.

Technical Reading Lesson Plan

Technical Literacy Assignment **Written Report on a Professional Journal Article**

Name: _____ Period: _____

Article Title: _____

Source & Date of Publication: _____

Date Due: _____

Technical Literacy Standards:

1. *TSW read, comprehend, and synthesize information from a wide range of sources within the technical field.*
2. *TSW write and speak clearly using the language of the field to communicate effectively to a variety of audiences.*

DIRECTIONS:

1. Select and read an article from a professional or technical journal.
2. Summarize the article and your reaction to the article.
3. Directions for Summary & Reaction paper:
 - a. IDENTIFICATION: Name, period, date and assignment in **left** side at the beginning of the report.
 - b. FORMAT: Report must be typed, double-spaced, font size 12, Times New Roman font style.
 - c. STRUCTURE:
 - Paragraph 1 = Introduction
 - Paragraph 2 = Summary of the article
 - Paragraph 3 = Your reaction to the article including **three reasons with examples and/or supports**. Use the following statements to guide your reaction for paragraph 3:
 - *The information in this article will help me be a better employee by*
 - *The information is important to employers and/or employees because*
 - *I agree (or disagree) with this article because*
 - *Support your position with **three** reasons & examples.*
 - Paragraph 4 = Closure

KEEP THIS PAGE FOR GRADING

Rubric for Assessing Written Reaction to a Journal Article				
Criteria	3	2	1	Rating
Article Selection	Related to the course and covers its topic in depth.	Relates to the course, but has little materials to which a reaction can be framed around.	Not on point for the course.	
Summary	Summary is no more than ¼ of the total reaction and accurately reflects the article.	Summary accurately reflects the article, but exceeds ¼ of the total reaction paper.	Summary does not reflect the article.	
Reaction	Based on the article and supported by 2-3 reasons & examples agreeing or disagreeing with the article's premise.	Based on the article. Uses less than 2 reasons and examples.	No supports or reasons and examples gives. Not based on the article.	
Conventions	Free of errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation. The reaction is two pages in length.	Limited errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation. The reaction is two pages in length.	Numerous errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation. The reaction is less than two pages in length.	
TOTAL SCORE				

Professional Development



Teacher World at National Convention Career Show

I hope you will visit "Teacher World" during the 2009 National FFA Convention Career Show. It will have displays from many of our agricultural education instructional materials vendor/partners and this year there are three teacher classrooms.

- One classroom, as in the past, for the DuPont Agriscience Ambassadors Program which will include Agriscience-based classroom activities.
- A second classroom, new this year and sponsored by Pfizer highlighting industry-based animal science lessons.
- A third classroom will host a broad variety of workshops including Canine Care and Training, Financial Education, Classroom Instructional Materials and Games, Diversity in Agricultural Education, Organic Farming, Service Learning and LifeKnowledge.

For workshop titles, descriptions and times, go to

http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c_convention.workshops

The **Society for Agricultural Education Parliamentarians** is offering a three-hour Parliamentary Procedure CDE Seminar. It will be held from 7 p.m.-10 p.m. on Wednesday at the 2009 National FFA Convention for Advisors and FFA members.

It will focus on training a team, and will be taught by coaches whose teams have won national gold medals. Click on the link below for details:

http://www.saep.us/index.php?module=pagemaster&PAGE_user_op=view_page&PAGE_id=16&MMN_position=33:33

New Teacher Retreat

All First and Second Year Agricultural Education Teachers, mark your calendar for December 11 & 12, 2009 to attend the New

Teacher Retreat. The retreat will be held at Camp Clements FFA Leadership Camp. This retreat is part of the second phase of the new teacher training program in Agricultural Education. Registration materials will be e-mailed to you in early November.

High Schools That Work Webinar Series (see attachment for details)

- An Intensive Look at What Works to Improve Reading Skills for High School Students
- The Mathematics Skills That High School Students Must Master to Be Ready for College and Careers

Grants



Students who need funding for their SAE may be eligible for a grant. Check the [2009 SAE Grants List](#) to find out if there are grants available for your SAE area.

To apply, complete the [application](#) and mail it to the address listed by November 15, 2009.

For information on other Grants through the National FFA Organization go to: http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c_ag_ed.ltsgrants

[Lowe's Toolbox for Education Accepting Applications for K-12 Public School Projects](#)

Grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded to nonprofit public K-12 schools and school-affiliated parent groups working on facility enhancements or landscaping/clean up projects in their schools....

Deadline: October 16, 2009

[High School Students Invited to Submit Entries for Green Your School Contest](#)

Awards of up to \$5,000 will be given to high schools whose students have designed projects to improve, restore, beautify, or conserve their school environment....

Deadline: October 9, 2009

Elementary Schools Invited to Apply for 'Love Your Veggies' Nutrition Grant Program

Grants of up to \$10,000 will be awarded to ten elementary schools working on programs that involve parents and educators helping children to eat and enjoy more vegetables....

Deadline: 11/07/09

Toyota TAPESTRY Program Accepting Entries for the 20th Annual Science Grant Competition

Grants of up to \$10,000 will be awarded to K-12 teachers working on projects that enhance science education in their school and/or district over a one-year period....

Teaching Resource Materials



on Tennessee Ag Ed Portals

Our Tennessee Ag Ed Portal site has been a big hit with the teachers across the state. Go to <http://guest.portaportal.com/tnaged> to check out the new teaching resources.

National Ag Safety Database - The database was developed with funding from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). The information contained in NASD was contributed by safety professionals and organizations from across the nation. View their website at <http://www.nasdonline.org>

Rural Electricity Resource Council can help with classroom resources at educator discounts. As a nonprofit association, our role is to promote the efficient & safe use of electricity in rural and agricultural applications. Helping instructors teach basic electricity, energy efficiency, and proper wiring has been our goal since 1957. See the attachment or go to www.rerc.org/carts.shtml to learn about:

- *Safe Electrical Wiring CD*
- *Agricultural Wiring Handbook*

- *Sizing & Selecting Your Standby Generator*
- *Farm Safely With Electricity*

Other Owl Moments

Proficiency Interview and Agriscience Fair Judges Needed

The Southern Region needs your assistance to be an proficiency interview and Agriscience Fair judge. It's a great way for new and not-so-new teachers to learn the process and to get partners involved. Agriscience Fair judges are needed in the areas of , Biochemistry/Microbiology/Food Science, Botany, Environmental Sciences and Zoology. Contact Teri Buchholtz at tbuchholtz@ffa.org to judge the Agriscience Fair. Any teacher or school official must complete the attached form – “2009 Prof Judges Form – edited 09.18.09” to be selected as a proficiency judge.



Ford Truck Scholarships

Despite economic struggles, Ford is continuing their sponsorship of the FFA scholarship program. Most local dealers are not aware of the program and all it takes is a personal contact to ensure a scholarship for a graduating student. Also, did you know that one eligible local chapter will receive a Ford Truck Lease for one year for participation in the Scholarship program? It's worth the teacher's time to get their local dealer involved with the scholarship program.

Remember to submit one of your best teaching strategies, tips, activities, photos and ideas to “Here by the Owl” by e-mail to steven.gass@tn.gov by the first of each month for publication in the following month.

